



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.1707 | FAX (517) 373.3935
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/toy/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Contact: Heather Lombardini
(517) 373-1707

Toy to DWSD: Spend More on Security, Less on Public Relations
Detroit News article cites DWSD for \$1.65 million public relations budget

LANSING – With new evidence of mismanagement at the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, Senator Laura Toy, R-Livonia, today called on Governor Jennifer Granholm to sign Senate Bill 195 into law.

“On what is likely the day before the United States goes to war with Iraq, and we are even more vulnerable to terrorist attacks, the DWSD should not be spending money to create *The Adventures of Sherlock H2O and Dr. Waterloo* children’s program,” Toy said. “We should be using that money to secure a natural resource that provides water to almost half of Michigan’s residents. Governor, DWSD ratepayers deserve an oversight board, sign this bill.”

A news article published in the Detroit News today, written by Joel Kurth, exposed the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department for spending \$1.65 million on public relations, a rate more than four times larger than Chicago and more than eight times larger Cleveland allocates to public relations budgets.

The article also listed the DWSD public relations staff at 37 employees, dramatically higher than the 6 employees in Chicago and 3 employees in Cleveland.

One of the functions of the DWSD public relations staff that was highlighted in the article is their production of shows about water for Detroit cable TV. One of the shows that ratepayers fund is “The Adventures of Sherlock H2O and Dr. Waterloo.”

Note: A statement on the DWSD public relation’s budget is available on the Michigan Senate Hotline at (517) 373-4000 or online at the Michigan Republican Senate Audiowire, located at: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/>.